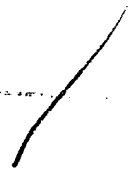


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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

High-efficiency inverter circuits, particularly half-bridge devices, are especially suitable for energizing gas discharge lamps. The inverters preferably employ a series-connected combination of an inductor and a capacitor to be energized upon periodic transistor conduction. Transistor drive current is preferably provided through the use of at least one saturable inductor to control the transistor inversion frequency to be equal to or higher than the natural resonant frequency of the inductor and capacitor combination. The inverters can develop high output voltages to supply external loads connected to the inductor-capacitor combinations.